

SLEEPING CHILD TIMBER SALE

May 19, 2008 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Hamilton Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 7 air miles southeast of Hamilton, Montana.
- Ravalli County – Section 36, T5N- 20W.
- 100% Common School.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 2,622 tons (369 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$26,220.00 or \$10.00/ton.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$3.20/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.11 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of 6 harvest units totaling 202 acres.
- The objectives of the proposed harvest is to remove dying ponderosa pine and thin Douglas fir to promote a healthier stand favoring ponderosa pine on south and west-facing slopes and Douglas-fir on the north and east-facing slopes.
- Throughout the project area, a minimum of two snags and two snag recruits per acre would be retained.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest Systems:

- 53% Tractor
- 47% Skyline

Road Construction:

- Approximately 750 feet of new road construction are required to access the harvest units. This newly constructed road segment would be retained after use for future management activities.
- Maintenance on approximately 12 miles of existing State and US Forest Service road will be necessary to meet Best Management Practices standards.
- Approximately 200 feet of existing road would be abandoned.

Public Involvement:

- Public involvement was solicited through a legal notice in the Ravalli Republic. Letters were sent to adjacent landowners and also to special interest groups. The public, DNRC specialists and specialists from other agencies helped identify issues. The identified issues were wildlife, forest fuels, aesthetics (visuals), and noxious weeds.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

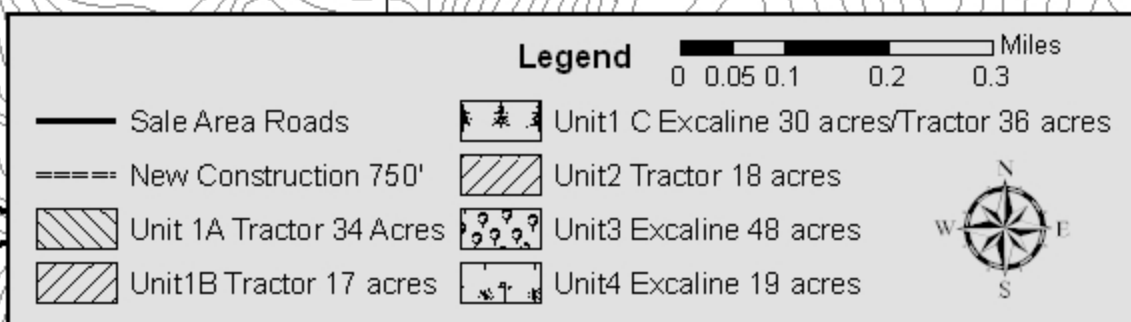
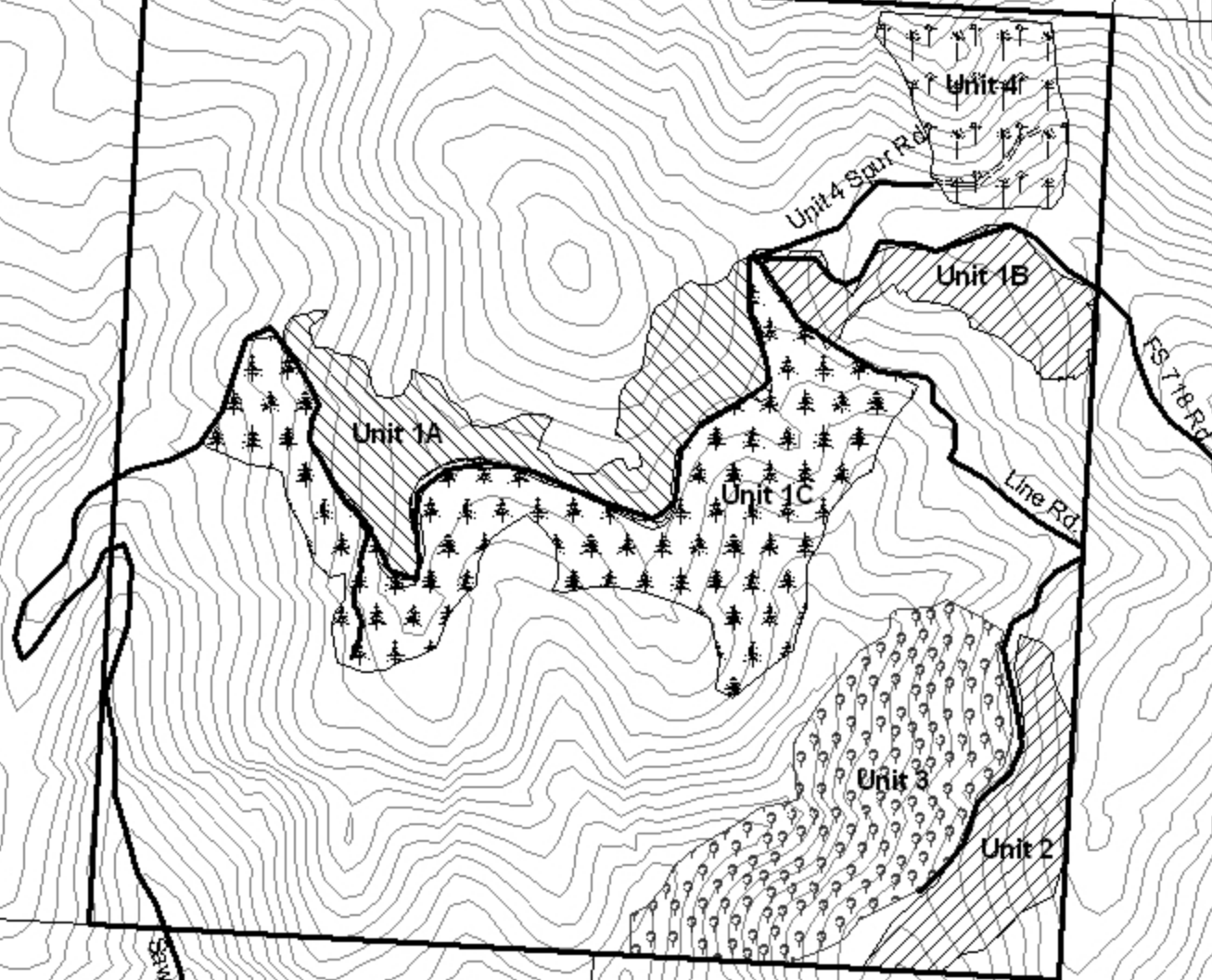
- **Noxious Weeds** – An integrated weed-management plan to limit the spread of noxious weeds would be applied as follows:
 - Off-road equipment used for felling, skidding, log processing, and loading activities will be washed and inspected prior to being brought on site.
 - All disturbed cut and fill slopes along roadways will be grass seeded.

- The project area will be treated with herbicide prior to sale operations and will be monitored and, if needed, scheduled for follow-up herbicide treatment after sale completion.
- **Wildlife**– The project area is within big game winter range. Retention of shrubs and trees along the roads, broken topography, and pockets of untreated areas would maintain limited sight distances. All current road restrictions would remain unchanged, thereby maintaining security for wildlife. Access for hunters would not change.
- **Fisheries** – No perennial streams supporting fish or stream segments with connectivity to downslope fisheries occur within the proposed project area and no effects would occur to fish or aquatic life associated with the proposed action.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Sleeping Child Timber Sale Project.

Sleeping Child Timber Sale **Section 36, T5N,R20W** **202 Acres**

Attachment A
 page 1 of 2



**Vicinity Map
Sleeping Child T.S.
Ravalli County**

Attachment A
page 2 of 2

Hamilton

N

Sale Area

Little Sleeping Child Rd.

1 0.5 0 1 Miles

